



DOCKET SECTION

Binford Weaver

Bringing You Nature's Best Queens, Bees, and Honey

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February 23, 1998

Margaret Crenshaw
Secretary
Postal Rate Commission
1333 H Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1 00 PM '98

Dear Ms. Crenshaw

Apparently the first page of the Affidavit of Binford Weaver, which was filled with your office as Exhibit 1 to The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.'s Brief in Opposition to Special Handling Rate Increase, omitted the last two lines of that page. We apologize for the partial deletion and can only suppose that an error occurred in copying. We are sending you the enclosed corrected first page of Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Binford Weaver, and ask that you substitute it for the incomplete copy you first received.

We are sending corrected copies to all parties. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Weaver
Attorney for
The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.

cc: All Parties

Exhibit 1
AFFIDAVIT OF
BINFORD WEAVER

I am Binford Weaver, co-owner of B. Weaver Apiaries, Inc. in Navasota, Texas. I produce Package Bees for sale to the public. Package Bees are colonies of honeybees including a queen specially packaged in wood and wire cloth for shipment. Package Bees are used to establish new hives of honeybees by the recipient. Many of the packages I produce are shipped to my customers via Special Handling Parcel Post. I am opposed to the Postal Service request for a 220% increase in Special Handling Fees for several reasons.

First, allow me to point out that there is no available alternative mode of sending and receiving package bees in quantities of less than 100 units at reasonable cost. Consequently, many small and medium sized beekeepers depend upon Special Handling Mail as the only means of obtaining bees from which to establish new hives. A 220% increase in Special Handling Rates would have a devastating impact upon my business and upon my customer's ability to obtain bees, for many of the package bees I produce each Spring are shipped via Special Handling Mail., and such an exorbitant increase in the cost of shipment would undoubtedly make package bees unaffordable for those purchasing fewer than 100, or practically unavailable for those unable to truck bees themselves. A 220% rate increase would make the cost of shipment equal to or in excess of the cost of the unit product at today's market prices.

Secondly, although the value and benefit of package bees to the general public has always been high, today the public interest in a viable package bee